

10B Airline Drive
Albany, New York 12235

Phone (518) 457-5570
www.nass.usda.gov/ny/

USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, N.Y. Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, Division of Statistics
cooperating with
U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA National Weather Service and Cornell Cooperative Extension

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This is the first edition of the New York "Weather and Crops" for the 2005 season. The New York Agricultural Statistics Service looks forward to working with the Agricultural Weather Information Service, National Weather Service personnel, Agricultural Extension agents, USDA Farm Service Agency agents, and independent volunteer observers who collectively make this report possible.

WEATHER: Temperatures ranged from a low of 22 degrees in Elmira to a high of 86 degrees in Poughkeepsie. Departures from normal were on the plus side across the state ranging from 5 to 9 degrees above normal. Accumulated growing degree days were above normal by as many as 76. Rainfall amounts ranged from 0.64 inches to 2.11 inches. Seasonal departures from normal were on the plus side across the state.

CROPS: Warm, dry weather permitted producers to get an early start on spring fieldwork and early planting. As April began heavy rainfall combined with snow melt in south central areas of the state caused extensive flooding. Fortunately there was not much damage to fields, only debris and lots of water. After the waters receded and debris was removed, the plows were in the ground and across the state activities progressed rapidly as unseasonable warmth and light winds dried soils. Many farms began planting small grains and seeding new hay fields. Near ideal conditions provided 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork during the week. Soil moisture was rated 9 percent short, 79 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus. Following are comments from reporters across the state: Hay seedings and small grains planting were well underway in Jefferson County, with some early plantings up already. It has been a great spring to apply manure before planting corn. In Clinton County, alfalfa seedings have been going in, also fertilization of grasses and some manure spreading. Sunshine and warm temperatures in Ontario County was great for preparing for the upcoming planting season. Farmers in Cortland County made good progress with small grain seeding. Plowing and oat seeding active in Montgomery County. Hayfields and pastures growing nicely in Cattaraugus County. Wayne County farmers have planted some hay, oats, and corn. In Herkimer County, April was an excellent month for fieldwork. Some seeding of oats and grass fields were completed in Madison County. Corn planting was just getting underway in Otsego County. Unusually warm and dry weather gave Albany County farmers a great opportunity to get a head start on fieldwork. Suffolk County farmers planted potatoes as weather permitted.

FRUIT: Across the State, growers were finishing fertilizer applications, pruning sweet cherries and young apple trees. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, pears were at swollen bud and starting to open into bud burst in inland sites. South of Route 104, apples were approaching tight cluster in some locations. There was not much difference in cooler lake sites with many varieties at half-inch green stage of development. In the Long Island grape region, grapes were not yet in bud break. In the Finger Lakes grape region, vineyards were still mostly dormant. There was a little bud swell in some varieties.

VEGETABLES: Despite flooding that occurred in early April, unseasonably warm weather has dried out most fields. Last week's weather allowed farmers to begin planting sweet corn, onions and cabbage. Sweet corn under plastic is going well with growers having little difficulty getting their early corn in timely. Reports show that 20 percent of onions and 18 percent of cabbage have been planted.

LIVESTOCK: Weekend rain after an extended warm, dry period have pastures growing nicely. Cattle were beginning to get out of the barn and onto pastures that were dry enough. Cows began adjusting to pastures after a winter of stored feeds. Pasture condition was rated at 5 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

This report is available on our website and by email free of charge. Please visit our website at www.nass.usda.gov/ny/ for further information.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, April 24, 2005

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50°			Precipitation (Inches)				
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season ^{1/}	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm	
Hudson Valley												
Albany	83	32	57	+9	51	80	+64	0.93	+0.23	1.94	-0.45	
Glens Falls	80	23	53	+6	34	36	+28	2.11	+1.41	3.58	+1.23	
Poughkeepsie	86	29	57	+8	48	79	+53	0.53	-0.31	2.86	+0.14	
Mohawk Valley												
Utica	75	27	54	+7	37	52	+36	1.98	+1.14	4.43	+1.57	
Champlain Valley												
Plattsburgh	79	25	52	+7	30	31	+21	1.60	+0.90	3.22	+1.00	
St. Lawrence Valley												
Canton	74	26	49	+5	14	21	+14	0.64	-0.06	2.40	+0.15	
Massena	76	25	49	+5	19	29	+21	1.12	+0.49	2.89	+0.77	
Great Lakes												
Buffalo	77	32	53	+6	36	62	+46	1.17	+0.47	3.82	+1.55	
Colden	78	31	51	+6	24	34	+27	1.49	+0.59	3.53	+0.48	
Niagara Falls	79	33	52	+5	35	52	+34	1.04	+0.28	3.49	+0.94	
Rochester	80	32	53	+6	37	47	+28	1.95	+1.32	3.73	+1.66	
Watertown	73	23	51	+6	26	31	+23	1.53	+0.91	4.01	+2.03	
Central Lakes												
Dansville	81	30	53	+7	33	48	+31	1.43	+0.73	3.19	+0.95	
Geneva	80	29	53	+7	37	50	+36	1.91	+1.21	4.52	+2.21	
Honeoye	81	25	53	+6	31	42	+27	1.98	+1.28	4.17	+1.82	
Ithaca	79	26	51	+6	23	37	+27	1.37	+0.67	4.43	+2.12	
Penn Yan	80	28	54	+8	42	60	+46	1.44	+0.74	4.59	+2.28	
Syracuse	79	29	56	+8	49	70	+53	2.39	+1.60	4.91	+2.24	
Warsaw	76	30	50	+7	20	31	+26	2.06	+1.23	4.80	+2.09	
Western Plateau												
Alfred	80	29	51	+7	26	36	+29	1.35	+0.58	3.46	+0.96	
Elmira	80	22	52	+5	31	48	+36	1.10	+0.47	3.68	+1.56	
Franklinville	79	26	49	+7	13	18	+15	1.40	+0.62	3.67	+1.05	
Sinclairville	78	32	51	+8	25	37	+30	1.39	+0.48	3.23	+0.18	
Eastern Plateau												
Binghamton	77	29	53	+8	39	64	+54	1.59	+0.82	3.89	+1.42	
Cobleskill	79	26	51	+7	23	30	+22	1.17	+0.40	3.20	+0.57	
Morrisville	77	29	51	+7	26	35	+29	1.61	+0.84	4.37	+1.94	
Norwich	80	26	51	+6	21	36	+28	1.42	+0.62	3.85	+1.20	
Oneonta	80	30	53	+9	28	41	+34	1.48	+0.64	4.25	+1.53	
Coastal												
Bridgehamton	81	32	54	+7	33	38	+29	0.86	-0.05	3.41	+0.22	
New York	85	47	60	+7	73	130	+76	0.82	-0.09	3.43	+0.42	

^{1/} Season accumulations are for April 1st to date.

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The information contained in this weekly release is obtained from reports from Cornell Cooperative Extension agents, USDA Farm Service Agency agents, the National Weather Service, Agricultural Weather Information Service and other knowledgeable persons associated with New York agriculture. Their cooperation is greatly appreciated.